

27th November, 1970.

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Dear Mr. Tobin

This is a brief reply to your letter of November 20th.

I think it is impossible to say what would have happened if Rosalind Franklin had let us see the details of her x-ray work before we built the DNA model. For example, we might have suggested some of our ideas to her and she might have solved the structure by herself. Alternatively, we might have been so pre-occupied in trying to test the details that Linus Pauling might have had another shot and solved the structure.

About our initial theory, it is normal for scientists working in the same field to have informal discussions about their ideas before publication. This is avoided only by people who are unduly worried about priority.

On your last question, it was natural that once we knew how DNA was replicated that we should attempt to find out how it influenced the rest of the cell.

Yours sincerely

F.H.C. Crick